Restrictions (QRs) on the remaining 715 items by March, 31st, 2001; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to safeguard these industries which contribute about 30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) While the removal of remaining Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) will expose Small Scale Industries (SSIs) to greater competition, the SSIs in India have enough resilience to withstand its impact, as is evident from their recent track record.

(b) The Government has recently announced a comprehensive policy package to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The policy package *inter-alia* includes enhancement of exemption limit for payment of excise duty from Rs. 50.00 lakhs to Rs. 1.00 crore, easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, launching of a scheme of credit linked capital subsidy off 12% for technology upgradation, continuing the scheme of granting Rs. 75000 to each SSI for obtaining ISO 9000 certification till the end of the 10th Plan, assistance of one time capital grant of 50% on reimbursement basis to SSI Associations to set up and operate testing laboratories, improved infrastructure, etc.

Agro-Industry in Orissa

219. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to develop agro-industries in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) the number of agro-industries proposed to be set up in the State during the remaining period of the above plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Industrialization is the specific responsibility of the State Government concerned and the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission provides assistance in the form of grants, interest subsidy, rebate, training, marketing etc. for the promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industries. As on 31.12.2000, 689 projects have been financed in Orissa under the Margin Money Scheme. However, the KVIC does not fix any target for setting up industrial units.

Census of small and medium industrial enterprises

220. DR. M.N. DAS : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to conduct a census of the small and medium industrial enterprises in the country for which Rs. 31 crores have been allocated;

(b) if so, what effective steps Government propose to adopt to revive such enterprises of which about 30 per cent are sick dying or dead; and

(c) whether Indian enterprises can be protected from outside competition and dumping of cheap goods from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Government has